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DECLARATION
OF THE
LORDS AND COMMONS
ASSEMBLED IN
PARLIAMENT.

WITH
The advice and concurrence of the
Commissioners of Scotland, to publish their proce-
dings upon His Majesties Letter, touching
a Treaty of Peace,

And to declare their resolutions and endeavours, to
put an end to the unhappy distempers of the King-
dome, by a safe and well grounded Peace.

23 Martii, 1643.

*Ordered by the Commons in Parliament. that Master Glynn take care for
the Printing of the Declaration concerning His Majesties Letter for a
Treaty of Peace; together with an act of this present Parliament, and se-
verall other Letters, thereunto annexed.*

Hen. Ellynge Cler. Parl. Dom. Com.

LONDON,
Printed for Edward Husbands, March 29. 1644.

NO. 10

THE

OF



A Declaration of the Lords
And Commons assembled in Parliament
upon His Majesties Letter touching a
Treaty of Peace.



¶ The Lords and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, having notice given us by the Earle of Essex, Lord Generall of the Forces raised for the defence of the King and Parliament, of divers Letters sent unto him by the Earle of Forth; And of a writing in Parchment dated at Oxford, and subscribed by divers Lords and Gentlemen inclosed in one of those

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Letters,

Letters, and directed to the said Earle of Essex;
 And likewise of an other Letter subscribed by
 his Majestie, and directed thus, To the Lords and
 Commons of Parliament assembled at Westminster;
 Which by the intimation given by the
 Earle of Forth in his Letter, wherein it was in-
 closed, seemed to be intended for the two Houses
 of Parliament; all which we have caused to be
 herewith Printed, Did take the same into our se-
 rious Consideration, and the rather, because it car-
 ried with it a rumour and pretence of a Treaty
 of Peace, which (being accompanied with truth)
 hath alwayes beene our earnest desires, and shall
 be our faithfull endeavours to effect. And having
 truly weighed the same, with the Circumstances
 thereof, doe find it so farre from any ayme or in-
 tention to Peace, that under the maske and title
 thereof; it appears to bee an endeavour to make
 our unhappy distractions and miseries more last-
 ing, and the warre more irreconcilable.

For now what the authors and fomentors of
 our sad Calamities, from the beginning inten-
 ded, they have procured to be in substance openly
 professed; that is, the overthrow and destruction
 of this present Parliament, being (under God)
 the only Basis and support of our Religion and
 Liberty, and the very Bulwarke betweene us
 and tyrannie, Popery, and Superstition, which
 are

are pressing hard to over-run all the three Kingdomes ; And because they foresaw the subversion of this Parliament, would be of a hard digestion with the people, they would first present it under the disguise of Peace ; And therefore his Majestie in his application thereunto must by his Letter deny the freedome and continuance thereof, and make way to the setting up of an other at Oxford, in styling that Convention by the name of the Lords and Commons of Parliament assembled at Oxford, being the same title which is therein given to the Parliament, and owning this proceeding towards peace to be by their advice ; And then if upon these termes the two Houses entertained this Overture, they have gained an acknowledgement from us of being no Parliament, or at leastwise a Tacite consent of assembly at Oxford, to be in equall condition with us ; But in case this addresse should be rejected, then they would take the advantage thereby to perswade the world, that they at Oxford did labour for Peace, and the Parliament was averse to Peace. And so by this subtile insinuation poison the affections of the people, to make the better way to ruine both Parliament and People.

And therefore that the sincerity of our Actions, and the malice and subtilty of our Adversaries may be the more cleerely discovered, we thought

it our duty (with the advice and concurrence of the Commissioners of the Kingdome of Scotland) to publish our proceedings to the Kingdome, and to declare that it hath alwayes beene, and ever shall be our earnest and faithfull endeavours to put an end to the troubles and dangerous distempers of this Kingdome by a happy and well grounded peace; So is it our settled resolution in discharge of the trust reposed in us, never to purchase it with the losse and ruine of our Religion and Liberty, having befoze our eyes the sad spectacle of that wofull Kingdome of Ireland, which after the expence of so much innocent blood in defence of the Protestant Religion is under the false glosse of Peace, subjected and brought under the power of Popery and Superstition. And those bloody Rebels having effected their ends in that Kingdome, are brought over hither, to bring us under the same yoke, which upon this occasion we are necessitated to publish. Being now tempted by that specious pretence to acknowledge the dissolution of this Parliament, which had wee assented to, would not only deprive us, and our posterity of the present, but of the hopes and capacitie of any future Parliament. And so at one blow cut in sunder the chiefe support and Pillar of our Lives and Liberties. For what better assurance can wee have, either of our present or future liberties then

then the Lawes and Statutes of the Kingdome, and what greater obligation can wee expect for the obserbance thereof then his Majesties Personall consent to that Law, and his sacred and solemne oath to obserbe the Lawes. And yet both these are not thought holds strong enough to secure us our own; In somuch that not only this present Parliament convened according to Common Law, and usuage of the Realm, and enacted by a Law consented unto by himselfe to have continuance (and herewith printed) is attempted to be dissolved; But another endeavoured to be set up at Oxford. And if the King notwithstanding all these Obligations shall at his pleasure dissolve this, the Kingdome is not only deprived of the present, but made incapable of enjoying the benefit of any future Parliament, or Lawes, any longer then shall stand with the will and pleasure of the King, and consequently the fundamentalls of all our Lawes and Government are subverted.

And wee very well know this Designe to be long since contrived at Oxford, as appeareth by the Lord Digbies intercepted Letter, Dated the twentieth seventh of December last (which wee have caused to be herewith printed) and of such expectation, that hee in that Letter expresseth it, to carry along with it probability of the surest.

surest and readiest way, &c. of any course that hath beene yet taken, knowing very well that the evils and miseries, himsele and his wicked confederates have brought upon this distressed Kingdome can expect no safety but by attempting more.

And truly they could not thinke of any, more likely to involve themselves in the same guilt, then those Lords and Gentlemen now met at Oxford, who had already contrary to their duty, and the trust reposed in them by their Country, deserted the Parliament, and assisted a warre against it, and had there beene any doubt or suspicion of their concurrence in that Designe, the very place of meeting, being the head Quarters of a Popish Army, whose cause they were there to consult of, would be a Rodde sharpe enough to secure them from that feare. And it doth sufficiently appeare that they have answered their expectation, for they have assumed the forme, and exercised the power of a Parliament: They sit in two distinct places, tearming the one the House of Peeres, and the other the House of Commons; And they have made the Lord Littleton, Speaker of that which they call the House of Peeres, and Serjeant Eure of the other, which they name the House of Commons.

They

They have granted the Summe of 100000. li. for the maintenance and recruiting of the Forces raised against the Parliament and Kingdome, and have advised the same to be levied upon the people in an Arbitrary way by Privy Seale, under the colour of Loane, which by their consent and pretended Authority is accordingly put in execution, as appeareth by the Privy Seales themselves, signed by the said Lord Littleton and Serjeant Eure, a Copy of one of them we have caused to be herewith printed. And what is beyond all, and without the power and capacity of a Parliament, they have declared another Kingdome, and the Parliament it selfe, guilty of high Treason, having Woted our Brethren of Scotland, who upon our Injunction, and according to the Act of Pacification, are come in to assist us in maintenance of our Religion and just Priviledges; and the two Houses, who have raised Forces for their owne just defence and the maintenance of their Religion and Liberty, Traytors and Rebels.

And now we refer it to any sober and indifferent Judgement, whether there can be a higher attempt to shake off and cut in sunders all bands of Law and Government, and to bring the people under the yoke and bondage of an absolute Tyranny then this is.

And we cannot chuse but admire and lament that this Kingdome should produce such unnaturall Monsters, who like Vipers to make way for their owne safety, would destroy the wombe that bare them. And because themselves are justly cut off as rotten and destructive branches of the representative

Body of the Kingdome, would therefore pluck up the Tree by the root, and destroy both Parliament and Kingdome. But when we consider the persons this Idol is composed of, it produceth no great wonder, consisting not onely of such who for betraying the trust reposed in them by their Countrey, and their duty to the Common-wealth, have bene justly excluded the Parliament. But if the Lord Digby, Percy, Iermyn, and others, who even before these unhappie differences, have bene legally impeached or questioned in Parliament for high Treason, and being convinced in their owne Consciences of the guilt thereof, fled the Kingdome to avoid their Triall, and therefore by Proclamations in his Maesties name, when his Maestie was here present, summoned to appeare to answer to that charge. But our greatest grieve is, That their Councils should so farre prevaile, as to procure his Maestie (under the pretence of Peace) to be their Instrument to an attempt so destructive to Himselfe, Kingdome and People, and to endeavour the consent of the Parliament, to destroy it selfe and their owne Religion and Liberties; an Attempt not to be paralleld by the president of the most pernicious times; and if effected, would in the end prove as dangerous to his Maestie as to the Kingdome, which may be made apparent by the example of some of his Predecessors, unhappily misled by the desperate Councils of private and ill-affected persons which consideration necessitated us to returne his Maestie the Answer herewith printed, wherein we take the boldnesse, with all humility and plainnesse,

plainnesse, to declare as well the duty we owe to our Country for Whom we are intrusted, as the Allegiance we owe to him; and that without apparent breach of both, we could not assent to any Treaty upon the termes expressed in his Majesties Letter: And likewise to tender unto him our humble Advice of a safe and ready way to put an end to the present sad conditions of his Majesties Dominions, and we shall never cease by our continuall and earnest Prayers to Almighty God to implore him, that yet at length he would incline his Royall Heart to be thoroughly sensible of these unhappy Divisions that have occasioned so much innocent blood to staine the Land, and by hearkning unto the joint advice of both Kingdomes now happily united in this common Cause by their late soleme League and Covenant, put an happy issue to all these troubles.

This we thought necessary to declare, to the end the world may see as well our owne reall endeavours to attaine a safe and iust Peace, as the indefatigable practices of those Popish and Jesuiticall Councils (the Instruments of all our miseries) who are content to appeare in all shapes, and leave no meanes unattempted to compasse their owne ends. First, they would have undermined us by secret practices; then they would have forced us by open Warre; and now they would allure us by the specious pretence of Peace to disabow this Parliament, and our iust Rights and Priviledges; and consequently resigne our selves, Religion, Lawes, and Liberties to the power of Idolatry, Superstition, and Tyranny.

But we are constantly resolved, in discharge of the duty we owe to our God, the trust reposed in us by our Country and our late Solemne Oath and Covenant, with the hazard of our lives and fortunes, to defend our lawfull Rights and Liberties, the freedome and Priviledges of this present Parliament, and which is above all the true Protestant Religion, wherein we shall not doubt but to receive the hearty concurrence and assistance of all well affected Protestants and true lovers of their Countrey and liberty; and the Lord of Hosts whose cause it is we stand for, and upon whose assistance we principally rely, grant our endeavours a blessed and happy successe.

ANNO



ANNO XVII.
Caroli Regis.

An Act to prevent Incon-
veniences which may happen
by the untimely Adjourning,
Proroguing, or Dissolving of this
present Parliament.



Hereas great summes of
money must of necessity be
speedily advanced and provi-
ded for the reliefe of his Ma-
jesties Army and people in
the Northern parts of this Realm, and
for preventing the imminent danger this
King:

Kingdom is in, and for supply of other
 his Majesties present and urgent occasi-
 ons, which cannot be so timely effected as
 is requisite, without credit for raising the
 said moneys, which credit cannot be ob-
 tained, untill such obstacles be first re-
 moved as are occasioned by feares, sea-
 lousies, and apprehensions of divers his
 Majesties loyall Subjects, that this pre-
 sent Parliament may be Adjourned, Pro-
 rogued, or Dissolved, before Justice shall
 be duely executed upon Delinquents, pub-
 like Grievance redressed, a firme Peace be-
 tween the two Nations of England and
 Scotland concluded, and before sufficient
 Provision be made for the repaiment of
 the said moneys so to be raised: All which
 the Commons in this present Parliament
 assembled having duely considered, do
 therefore humbly beseech your most Excel-
 lent Majesty, that it may be declared and
 enacted;

And be it declared and enacted by the
 King, Our Soveraigne Lord, with the
 assent of the Lords and Commons in this
 present

present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That this present Parliament now assembled shall not be dissolved unlessse it be by Act of Parliament to be passed for that purpose; nor shall be at any time or times during the continuance thereof, Prorogued or Adjourned, unlessse it be by Act of Parliament to be likewise passed for that purpose: And that the House of Peers shall not at any time or times during this present Parliament, be Adjourned, unlessse it be by themselves or by their owne Order: And in like manner, that the House of Commons shall not at any time or times during this present Parliament be Adjourned, unlessse it be by themselves or by their owne Order; And that all and ebery thing and things whatsoever done or to be done, for the Adjournment, Proroguing, or Dissolving of this present Parliament contrary to this Act, shall be utterly voyd, and of none effect.

Order-



ORdered by the Commons
 assembled in Parliament, That
 the Act of Parliament made in the
 17th yeere of His Majesties reigne,
 for the continuance of this present
 Parliament, be printed with the
 Declaration.

H. Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.



The

The Earl of Forth to His Excellency the Earl of Essex.

MY Lord, I send you herewith this inclosed packet, direct to your Lordship, from those Lords and members of the House of Commons, as are here assembled at *Oxford*. I rest

Your Lordships humble servant,

Oxon, 29. January, 1643.

FORTH.

My Lord, The Inclosed, To the Earl of ESSEX.

HIS Majestie having by His Proclamation of the two and twentieth of December (upon the occasion of the Invasion threatned, and in part begun by some of His Subjects of *Scotland*) summon'd all the members of both Houses of Parliament to attend him here at *Oxford*; We whose names are underwritten, are here met & assembled in obedience to those His Majesties commands; His Majestie was pleased to invite us in the said Proclamation by these gracious Expressions [That His Subjects should see how willing he was to receive advice, for the preservation of the Religion, Lawes, and safety of the Kingdom, and as farre as in him lay, to restore it to it's former Peace, and securitie, (His chiefe and onely end) from those whom they had trusted, though he could not receive it in the place where he appointed.] This most gracious invitation, hath not onely been made good unto us, bnt seconded and heighthned by such unquestionable demonstrations of the deep and Princely sence which possesse His Royall heart, of the miseries and calamities of His poor Subjects in this unnaturall war, and of His most entire and passionate affections, to redeeme them from that sad and deplorable condition, by all wayes possibly consistent; either with His honour, or with the future safety of the Kingdom, that as it were impiety to

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question

question the sincerity of them, so were it great want of duty and faithfulness in us (His Majesty having vouchsafed to declare, that he did call us to be witnesses of His actions, and privy to His intentions) should we not testify and witness to all the world, the assurance we have of the piety and sincerity of both. We being more intirely satisfied of this truth, we cannot but confesse that amidst our highest afflictions, in the deep and piercing sence, of the present miseries and desolations of our countrey, and those further dangers threatned from *Scotland*, We are at length erected to some cheerfull and comfortable thoughts, that possibly we may yet (by Gods mercy, if his justice have not determined this Nation for it's sins, to totall ruine, and desolation) hope to be happie instruments of our countreys redemption from the miseries of war, and restitution to the blessings of Peace; And we being desirous to beleieve your Lordship (how ever engaged) a person likely to be sensibly touched with these considerations, have thought fit to invite you to that part in this blessed worke, which is onely capable to repair all our misfortunes, and to buoye up the Kingdom from ruine; That is, by conjuring you, by all the obligations that have power upon honour, conscience, or publike pietie, that laying to heart (as we do) the inwardly bleeding condition of your country, and the outward more menacing destruction by a forraigne Nation, upon the very point of invading it, you will cooperate with us to it's preservation, by truly representing to, and faithfully and industriously promoting with those, by whom you are trusted, this following, most sincere, and most earnest desire of ours. That they joyning with us in a right sence of the past, present, and more threatning calamities of this deplorable Kingdom; some persons be appointed on either part, and a place agreed on,

to treat of such a Peace, as may yet redeeme it from the
brinke of desolation.

This addresse we should not have made, but that His
Majesties summons by which we are met, most graciously
proclaiming pardon to all without exception, is evidenee
enough, that His mercy and clemency can transcend
all former provocations; And that he hath not onely made
us witnesses of His Princely intentions, but honoured us
also with the name of being security for them.

God Almighty direct your Lordship, and those to
whom you shall represent these our most reall desires, in
such a course, as may produce that happy Peace, and set-
tlement of the present distractions, which is so heartily
desired, and prayed for by us, and which may make us

From Oxford Jan. 27. 1643.

Your affectionate Friends,

Charles P.
York.
Cumberland
Ed: Littleton Cs:
Tho: Cottington
Richmond
Hertford
Lindsey
Dorset
Shrewsbury
Hen: Bathon
Tho: Southampton
J: Carlile
Northampton

W: Devonshire
Bristol
Barkshire
Cleveland
Peterborough
Kingston
Henry Dover
Conway
George Digby
Crumwell
Mowbray & Maltra-
Rivers (vers
William Paget
Howard of Charlton
C 2 Leicester

Leicester
 J: Newport
 John Lovelace
 Mohun
 Portland
 Savile
 Dunsmore
 Seymour
 Percy

Wilmot
 Chandois
 T: Leigh
 Ch: Hatton
 Hen: Jermyn
 Rich
 Tho: Wentworth
 C: Carington.

John Fetiplace.
 Alex. Denton.
 John Packington.
 Thomas Smith.
 F: Gamul.
 John Harris.
 Joseph Jones.
 Richard Edgcumb.
 Jonathan Rashleigh.
 George Fane.
 B: Edgcumb.
 William Glanvill.
 Robert Holborns.
 Ralph Sydenham.
 Francis Godolphin.

George Parry.
 Ambrose Manaton.
 Richard Wogan.
 John Polwhele.
 John Arundell.
 Thomas Lower.
 Edward Hyde.
 William Allestree.
 G: Stonehouse.
 Edward Seymour.
 Peter Sainthill.
 William Poly.
 Roger Hathew.
 Richard Arundell.
 Robert Walker.

Giles Strangeways.
 John Dutton.
 Strangways 1643.
 Henry Bret.
 William Chadwell.
 Thomas Bele.
 Theobald Gorges.
 Ger: Naper.
 John Georges.
 Samuel Turner.
 William Constantine.
 Killigrew.
 Richard King.
 Thomas Fanshaw.
 Humph: Coningesby.
 Richard Seabourn.
 Arthur Ranelagh.
 Thomas Tomkyns.
 Sampson Eure.
 John Culpeper.
 Geoffrey Palmer.
 J: Harrison.
 Thomas Fanshaw.
 Roger Palmer.
 W. Bridgeman.
 William Watkins.

John Smith.
 Thomas Bludder.
 Edward Littleton.
 Henry Bagot.
 Kevelson.
 Richard Cave
 Richard Weston
 Richard Lee
 Thomas Whitmore
 Edward Acton
 C: Baldwyn
 Richard Goodwyn
 Thomas Howard
 Thomas Littleton
 Ro: Howard
 John Meux
 Matth. Davys
 H: Cornwalleis
 Thomas Jermyn
 John Atler
 William Vassill
 William Fortman
 Edw: Rodeney
 Thomas Hanham
 Edward Phillips
 John Digby

Fillis Kyrton
 Chr: Lewkener
 Edw: Alford
 John White
 John Ashburnham
 William Smith
 Thomas Leeds
 J: Thynne
 William Pleydell
 Robert Hyde
 Edward Griffin
 Walter Smith
 George Lowe
 Richard Harding
 Henry Herbert
 Endymion Porter
 Sam: Shandys
 John Bodrell

W: Thorgan
 William Thomas
 John Martin
 Hen: Belasyse
 George Wentworth
 William Malory
 Richard Aldburgh
 John Salusbury
 William Herbert
 William Price
 Jo: Jeery
 R: Herbert
 Charles Price
 Phil: Warwick
 Tho: Coke
 Ro: Croke
 Herbert Prife
 John Whistler:

His

His Excellency to the Earl of FORTH.

M^R Lord, I received this day a Letter of the 29 of this instant from your Lordship, and a Parchment, subscribed by the Prince, Duke of York, divers Lords and Gentlemen: But it neither having addresse to the two Houses of Parliament, nor therein there being any acknowledgement of them, I could not communicate it to them.

My Lord, the maintenance of the Parliament of *England*, and of the priviledges thereof, is that, for which we are resolved to spend our blood, as being the foundation whereon all our Laws and Liberties are built.

I send your Lordship herewith a Nationall Covenant, solemnly entred into by both the Kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*, and a Declaration passed by them both, together with another Declaration of the Kingdom of *Scotland*. I rest

Your Lordships humble Servant,

Essex house, Jan. 30. 1643.

E S S E X.

The Earl of FORTH to his Excellency.

M^Y Lord, I cannot so willingly write to you in any businesse, as in that of Peace; The indeavours thereof being the principall duty of those who are trusted in places of our commands, especially when the blood that is spilt, is of persons under the same Allegiance, of the same country and Religion. His Majesty continuing constant in his pious & frequent desires of a happy end to these bloody distractions. I do hereby desire your Lordship to send me a safe Conduet, to and from *Westminster*, for Mr. *Richard Fanchaw*, and Mr. *Thomas Offly*, Esquires, to be sent by His Majesty concerning a Treaty for Peace. I rest,

My Lord, your Lordships humble Servant,

Oxford, 15. Febr. 1643.

FORTH.

His

His Excellency to the Earl of F O R T H.

MY Lord, you shew your noblenesse, in declaring your willingnesse to write to me in any businesse, as of that of Peace; and I joyn with you in the same opinion, that it ought to be a principall duty of those who are trusted in places of our command: and therefore whensoever I shall receive any directions to those who have intrusted me, I shall use my best indeavours; and when you shall send for a safe Conduct, for those Gentlemen mentioned in your Letter from His Majesty to the Houses of Parliament, I shall with all cheerfulness shew my willingness to further any way that may produce that happiness, that all honest men pray for, which is a true understanding between His Majesty and His faithfull and onely Councell the Parliament.

*Your Lordships humble Servant,**19. Febr. 1643.*

E S S E X.

The Earl of F O R T H to his Excellency.

MY Lord, I have received your Letter of the 19. of the last Moneth, which, according to my duty, I shewed to His Majesty; who observing in it your Expressions concerning Peace (that whensoever you shall receive any directions to those who have intrusted you, you shall use your best endeavours) is graciously pleased to send this inclosed; which is desired, may be delivered according to the directions. I rest

*Your Lordships humble Servant,**Oxon, 3. Mar. 1643.*

F O R T H.


The inclosed Letter from His Majesty, is thus directed:

C H A R L E S R. *To the Lords and Commons of Parliament, assembled at Westminster.*



TO THE
Lords and Commons
OF
PARLIAMENT,
Assembled at
WESTMINSTER.

CHARLES Rex.

 Ut of Our most tender and
pious sence, of the sad and
bleeding condition of this
Our Kingdom, and Our
unwearied desires to apply
all remedies, which by the
blessing of Almighty God, may recover it
D from

from an utter ruine. By the Advice of the Lords and Commons of Parliament, assembled at *Oxford*, We do propound and desire, That a convenient number of fit persons, may be appointed, and authorized by you, to meet (withall convenient speed, at such place, as you shall nominate) with an equall number of fit persons, whom We shall appoint and authorize, to treat of such wayes and means, to settle the present distractions of this Our Kingdom, and to procure a happy Peace; And particularly, how all the Members of both Houses may securely meet in a free and full convention of Parliament, there to treat, consult, and agree, upon such things, as may conduce to the maintenance, and defence of the true Reformed Protestant Religion, with due consideration to all just and reasonable ease of tender consciences, to the settling and maintaining of Our just Rights and Prerogatives, of the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament, the Laws of the Land, the Libertie and Proprietic of the Subject, and all other expedients that may conduce to
that

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that blessed end of a firm and lasting Peace,
both in Church and State ; and a perfect
understanding between Us and Our People,
wherein no endeavours or concurrence of
Ours shall be wanting. And God direct your
hearts in the wayes of Peace.

Oxford the third of March. 1643.



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THE





THE
LETTER

SENT

By both Houses of *Parliament*,

In Answer to

His Majesties Letter
the third of *March*.

May it please your Majesty.



THE the Lords and Commons
assembled in the Parliament
of *England*, taking into our
consideration a Letter sent
from Your Majestie, dated
the third of *March* instant,
and directed to the Lords and Commons
assembled

assembled at *Westminster* (which by the contents of a Letter from the Earl of *Forth*, unto the LORD GENERAL, the Earl of *Essex*, we conceive was intended to our selves) have resolved with the concurrent advice, and consent of the Commissioners of SCOTLAND, to represent to Your Majestie in all humility and plainnesse, as followeth.

That as we have used all means for a just and safe Peace, so will we never be wanting to do our uttermost, for the procuring thereof: But when we consider the Expressions in that Letter of Your Majesties, we have more sad, and dispairing thoughts of attaining the same, then ever; because thereby those persons now assembled at *Oxford*, who contrary to their duty, have deserted Your Parliament, are put into an equall condition with it. And this present Parliament, convened according to the known Laws of the Kingdom, the continuance whereof, is established by a Law consented unto by Your Majesty, is in effect denyed to be a Parliament; the
scope

scope and intention of that Letter, being to make provision, how all the Members, as is pretended, of both Houses, may securely meet in a full and free Convention of Parliament; whereof, no other conclusion can be made, but that present Parliament, is not a free, nor full Convention; and that to make it a free, and full Convention of Parliament, the presence of those is necessary, who notwithstanding they have deserted that great Trust, and do levy War against Your Parliament, are pretended to be Members of the two Houses of Parliament.

And hereupon, we think our selves bound, to let Your Majestie know, That seeing the continuance of this Parliament, is settled by a Law (which as all other, the Laws of Your Kingdoms, Your Majesty is sworn to maintain, as we are sworn to our Allegiance to Your Majesty, (these Obligations being reciprocall) we must in duty, and accordingly are resolved, with our Lives, and Fortunes, to defend and preserve, the just Rights, and full power of
this

this Parliament. And do beseech Your Majestie, That Your Majesties Royall and hearty concurrence with us herein, will be the most effectual and ready means, of procuring a firm and lasting Peace, in all Your Majesties Dominions, and of begetting a perfect understanding between Your Royall Majestie, and Your People; without which, Your Majesties most earnest Professions, and our most reall Intentions concerning the same, must necessarily be frustrated; and in case Your Majesties three Kingdoms shall still remain in this sad and bleeding condition, tending by this unnaturall Warre, to their ruine, Your Majestie cannot be the least, nor the last sufferer. God in his goodnesse, incline Your Royall Brest, out of pittie and compassion, to the deep sufferings of Your innocent people, to put a speedy and happy ~~issue to these desperate evils~~, by the Joynt advice of both Kingdoms, now happily united in this common cause, by their late solemn League and Covenant; which

which as it will prove the surest remedy, so
it is the prayer of

Your Majesties Loyall Subjects,

The Lords and Commons
assembled in the Parliament
of *England*.



THE



